

VAN HOUTEN'S

PURE SOLUBLE COCOA

BEST

AND

GOES FARTHEST.

No. 10487

一九零四年七月三十日

ESTABLISHED 1857.

HONGKONG THURSDAY, JULY 9TH, 1891.

四月九日

九月七日

PRICE \$2 1/2 PER MONTH

Hong Kong Daily Press

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SACCHARIN TABLOIDS.

SACCHARIN 500 times sweeter than sugar. One or two tiny Tabloids of Saccharin added to a cup of tea, coffee, or sago, in lieu of as many lumps of sugar—will impart to it a sweet and delicate flavour. Saccharin Tabloids are now being used on the Tables of many distinguished people as a delicacy, in preference to ordinary cane sugar, as they do not impair the aroma of the choicer tea or coffee. Specially adapted for persons suffering from Diabetes. Supplied by all Chemists in oval bottles (vacuum style) 100 and 200 in each.

2

NOTICE.

Communications respecting Advertisements, Subscriptions, Printing, Binding, &c. should be addressed to the Manager, only, and special business matters to the Manager.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for the current period will be retained until the next.

Orders for extra copies of the "Daily Press" should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

Telegraphic Address Press. Telephone No. 12.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

I beg to notify that I have taken over the BUSINESS of Messrs. LEARON, LOW & CO. at this and FORMOSA, which will be henceforth conducted in my own name.

FRANK LEYBURN.

Amoy, 29th June, 1891.

TO LET.

NO. 3 CASTLE ROAD.—On Desirable Terms.

KIMBERLEY VILLAS, KOWLOON.—Two Handsomely situated Houses.

WEST END TERRACE.—Two Commodious 4-Roomed Houses.

Next moderate.

Apply to SPANISH PROCURATION.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1848

ELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

Miss Nobody of Nowhere, by Author of Mr. Blue.

Griffith, Mr. Oracle.

War, by Colonel F. Maurice.

Boating Man's Voyage.

Indian Clubs, by Iliffe.

Royal Academy Pictures, Part 2.

Quoar Stories from Trade.

Walker's Pocket Atlas of the World.

Whitney's History of Man.

M. & O. Pocket Book.

Anderson's Japanese Art, half-morocco.

Ashley's Origin of Property in Land.

Good-Bye, by J. Strange Winter.

The Cosmographic Atlas—the best Guide.

Atlas in the World.

The Old.

Worn out by Mario Corolla.

Plain Tales from the Hills, by Rudyard Kipling.

Conder's Flowers of Japan, and the Art of Floral Arrangement.

The Light that Failed, by Rudyard Kipling.

Kinney's Straight Cut Cigarettes.

Sweet Cigarettes.

Agents.

ALBRIGHT & SWINE.

Agents.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1862

FOR MANILA.

THE Steamship.

THE "VELRY."

Captain Johnson will be despatched as above.

TO-MORROW, the 10th inst., at NOON.

For Freight or Passages, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWINE.

Agents.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1860

FOR MANILA (DIRECT).

THE Steamship.

"ELSE,"

Captain Johnson will be despatched as above.

TO-MORROW, the 10th inst., at NOON.

For Freight, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1861

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, AND TAMSU.

THE Company's Steamship.

"HAILOONG."

Captain Roach, will be despatched for the above.

Ports on SUNDAY, the 12th instant, at DAY LIGHT.

For Freight, apply to

DOUGLAS LA PRAIK & CO.

General Managers.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1862

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR PORT DARWIN, QUEENSLAND.

PORTS, SYDNEY, AND MELBOURNE.

THE Company's Steamship.

"CHANGSHA."

J. E. Williams, Commander, will be despatched as above on MONDAY, the 29th July, 1891.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Company. First-class and Second-class.

Passengers are berthed in the Pop.

Briskening Chamber ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire voyage. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

For Freight or Passages, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWINE.

Agents.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1869

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer

"NESTOR"

are hereby notified that the Cargo is being discharged in Craft and/or landed at the Godown of the Undersigned, both of which will be held in Charge of the same. The Cargo will be ready for delivery from Craft or Godown on and after To-Day.

Goods undelivered after the 15th instant will be subject to Rent. All damaged Goods must be left in the Godown, where they will be examined at 11 a.m. on the 16th inst.

BUTTERFIELD & SWINE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1891.

1864

ME BOUCHARD,

KOBE, JAPAN.

A.B.C. CORSET MAKER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

For particulars and prices apply to

J. BOUCHARD.

KOBE, JAPAN.

1893

HENRY S. KING & CO.

MERCHANTS AND AGENTS,

6, CORNELL, LONDON.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

GOODS of all kinds are supplied on the most favourable terms for Cash remitted with order.

An Illustrated Cash Price List will be forwarded on application, or orders may be sent from any Current Catalogues, if full particulars are furnished.

Hongkong, 2nd October, 1890.

2156

1868

ENTERTAINMENT.

CITY HALL.

THE WILLARD OPERA COMPANY.

TO-NIGHT

(THURSDAY, 9th JULY,

Report by desire of

BOGGAGIO.

Cast of Characters:

BOCCOCIO (Student, Sati-

ris and Roman) Miss A. St. JOHN,

Loettone (Student, his

Friend) Mr. W. WALSH,

Pietro (Prince of Palermo) Mr. F. SAXBY,

Lotto (a Blubious) Mr. F. WENTWORTH,

Casper (a) Mr. G. D. COOPER,

Lombardino (an Olive)

Grover) Mr. HARRY HALL,

Sofia (Court Barber) Mr. F. FARNLEY,

Chico (a Blind Beggar) Mr. SMYTHE,

The Major (Dame of the) Mr. S. DEAN,

Grand Duke (Dame of the) Mr. P. VERNARD,

Isabella (Wife of Lotario) Miss VERA PATER,

Fiametta (adopted Daughter of

Lambertino) Miss C. DENVER,

Portia (Wife of Lotario) Miss B. ROYAL,

Giulietta (Daughter of

Sofia) Miss E. McDONALD,

Filipa (an Olive Girl) Miss TROGE,

Rosetta (a Flower Girl) Miss SWIFT,

Domena (an Aneist) Miss ROBERTS,

Beauty) Miss TREGGE.

Spada (Page to Prince) Miss TREGGE.

Pages and Flower Girls Miss BROOKES,

SHIELDS, N.M., &c.

Students, Coopers, Citizens, Nobles, &c.

Conductor Mr. T. ZEPPLIN.

SATURDAY, 11th JULY.

"THE BEGGAR STUDENT."

Plan now Open at MESSRS. KELLY & WALSH.

PRICES, \$3, \$2, and \$1.

250 Late Trans. will run on Saturday at 8.45 p.m.

and 10 a.m. on the Performance.

9th July, 1891.

1890

THE NIPPON CEMENT CO. (of TOKIO).

INTIMATIONS.

HONGKONG TRADING CO. LTD.
GENTLEMEN'S OUTFITTING
DEPARTMENT.

SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE.

To make Room for forthcoming Autumn and Winter Stock, we are now offering some really Cheap Bargains in the above Department, a few of which are enumerated below:

SUMMER MERINO, BALBRIGGAN,
and LISLE THREAD HALF
HOSE.....from \$2.50 per doz.

SUMMER VESTS.....from \$3.50 per doz.

CORK and PITH SUN HATS and
HELMETS.....\$2.25 each.

CANVAS SHOES.....\$1.75 per pair.

STRAW HATS.....\$1.00 each.

CALF and KID BOOTS and
SHOES.....\$2 and \$3 per pair.

SILK SCARFS.....\$3.00 for \$1.00.

HONGKONG TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

12 GOLD MEDALS and 5 SILVER MEDALS,
By Appointment.

KUHN & CO.
HONGKONG YOKOHAMA
(Established 1869).

THE ORIENTAL FINE ART DEPOT.

Known as the Oldest and most reliable Estab-
lishment in the East.
Hongkong, 9th February, 1891. [282]

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED
WATER.

Our New Factory has been recently refitted
with automatic Steam Machinery of the
latest and most approved kind, and we
are well able to compete in quality with
the best English Makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and
the manufacture of the articles are exercised in
the most perfect manner.

LARGE BOMBAY "SODAS"

We continue to supply large bottles to those
of our Customers who prefer to have them to
the ordinary size.

AST PORT TRADES,
whose practical, are demanded by first
class houses after receipt of order.

FOR COAST PORTS, Wares are packed
and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices,
and the full amount allowed for Packages and
Empties when received in good order.

Counterfeited Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is
DISPENSARY, HONGKONG,
And all signed messages addressed thus
will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Wares always
kept ready in Stock—

PURE AERATED WATER

SODA WATER

LEMONADE

POTASH WATER

BELTIER WATER

LITHIA WATER

SARSAPELLA WATER

TONIC WATER

GINGER ALE

GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty,
or greasy, or that appear to have been used
for any other purpose than that of containing
Aerated Water, as such Bottles are never used

again.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
Hongkong, China and Manila. [24-13]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the news column
should be addressed to "The Editor."

Correspondents are requested to send their news
and addressee's name and address to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.

Letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.

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At that hour the supply is limited.

Telegraphic Address *Press*. Telephone No. 12.

BIRTH.

At Derby, Hongkong, on Thursday morning,
the 2nd July, 1891, the son of a son, [16th]
MARGARET.

On the 20th June, at the Union Protestant Church,
Kowloon, by the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., HENRY
JAMES FRANCIS to MRS. ANNIE BONE, wife of Captain
Gardiner, London.

DEATHS.

On 20th May, 1891, at Shapley, HENRY BOIS,
late of Hongkong, aged 44 years, second son of the
late Edward Bois, J.P., of Croydon. [1623]

Diego, on the Peak Road, DAVID MCGOWAN,
aged 51 years.

At Swatow, on the 3rd instant, HENRY MACE,
son of the late Mr. Mace, of London.

On 14th June, at his residence, "The Missionary
Home," Kowloon, THOMAS J. BALLARD, formerly
of the Foreign Missions' Catalogue.

At 11, Pei-hoong East, Shanghai, on 16th June,
GWENDOLYN BIRMINGHAM, the beloved eldest daughter
of CHARLES and EMILY DALLAS, aged 17 years.

REUTER'S TELEGRAPH.

SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."

LONDON, 6th July.

THE KAISER'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

The Emperor of Germany arrived in England
on Saturday. The splendour of the welcome
accorded him was without precedent. The Press
consider his visit of great political importance.

NOT FIND THE PEASANT KINGDOM WORTH
FIGHTING FOR, either on her own account or to
oblige China. Any idea of an Anglo-Chinese
alliance cannot be too strongly deprecated.
China is not to be relied upon in the slightest
degree; she is unique among nations in her
matchless egotism; and she has invariably
shown a most unfeigned disposition to help
Russia. Her own attempts to help
herself even are hampered by her blind
hatred and distrust of the foreigner, from
whom she fears to borrow lest he should
gain a sort of hold on her, and whose
commerce with her she is perpetually
striving to diminish, because she is jealous
of his gains. By the selfish and
fatuously policy of isolation she has so long per-
severed in, and by her supercilious arrogance,
of late years considerably aggravated, China
has certainly succeeded in alienating all
sympathy, and in case of war with a
great European Power she would have
no real friend. Even her neighbour
Japan, whose good feeling she should
have asiduously cultivated, has been converted
into an enemy by a long course of passive
opposition and silent contempt, to say nothing
of her pretensions to the suzerainty
of Loochow after annexing the Japanese
islands. The railway race is not exactly on all fours with the
celebrated contest between the hare and the tortoise,
though it partakes somewhat of the same
nature, but it will, we venture to predict,
have a difficult result. The Siberian hare
will win in a common race, long before
the Chinaman tortoise reaches the Yangtze
Valley. The completion of the Siberian
Railway will mark a new era in the history
of Eastern Asia, and may possibly lead at no
distant date to some notable alterations on
the ground, will lead into the top storey; the an-

system will not overtake that of Russia.
The end of the present century will probably
find Peking still unconnected with Canton,
and possibly even with Nanking, especially
if the line is to wait until CHANG CHIA-CHUNG
gets his supply of native steel made into
rails. The present rate of progress is ab-
solutely insignificant; practically railway
construction has stood still since the open-
ing of the line to Tientsin near the end of
1888, and since then there has been little
but talk on the subject. At length after a
weary interval the Peking Government have
authorised the proposed extension to Shan-
hai-kia-wan, a section that will be valuable
chiefly, if not entirely, in a strategical or
military sense.

The first requisite towards the provision
of a system of railways is of course capital,
and this does not appear to be readily forth-
coming in the Central Kingdom. The
Chinese Government are, in this matter,
acting the part of the dog in the manger;
they have not the money in the Imperial
coffers and they will neither borrow
the billion nor allow private enterprise to lay
down the iron road. There have been many
rumours to the effect that a loan had been
negotiated for the purpose, the latest being
a somewhat circumstantial report that Prince
CHING had concluded a loan with the German
Bank. This was in April last, but the
loan either fell through or was never seriously
entertained. As a matter of fact the Chinese
Government, or at any rate LI HUNG-
CHANG and CHANG CHIA-CHUNG, have a per-
fect horror of allowing foreigners to acquire
any stake or interest in the country, even in-
directly by means of a loan. Nor are they
apparently very favourable to the construction
of railways by private native enterprise.
They certainly allowed the China Railway
Company to make the Tientsin-Taku line,
but the line is to a considerable extent con-
trolled by officials, and the Company should
not obtain permission to extend it to Peking.
Nor has the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs suc-
ceeded in securing the Imperial assent to the
projected railway from Canton to Kowloon,
although he memorialised most strongly
in favour of the enterprise. The system of
railways, including a trunk line from a point
near the capital to Canton, has been an-
nounced by the Chinese Government as
a project to be undertaken by the Chinese
Government, and the Chinese officials should
be sent in two instalments, that the
high provincial officials should be ordered
to raise it with all possible dispatch,
and that military officials should be punished
in the same manner as if they were guilty of
negligence in forwarding remittances for house-
hold and defence purposes, which means
that they should be degraded. It is this
kind of policy that the Chinese Government
have adopted in their relations with the
Chinese soldiers in India, and the
Chinese officials in the provinces. The
Admiral Fong was about sixty years of age
and was a native of the Po-ling district, Chao-
chou Fu (Swatow). He distinguished himself
in the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion
and was given the rank of Yung-chia. He
was sent to the command of the Yung-chia
district, standing under a great river
which he had been convicted of at that place
in consequence of his illness he returned at once
to Canton, where he arrived on the morning of
the 6th.

Admiral Fong, the man who is describing
a trip in China, gives the following sketch of
the late Admiral Fong's home.—There are at
Beng-ho two places of unusual interest to foreigners.
One is the ancient town of Pung Yu-lin, late
of the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs, who
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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JULY 9TH, 1891.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHINESE CONSUL AT HONGKONG.

More than ordinary interest was felt in anticipation by the public on the 3rd inst. in the proceedings of the Legislative Council meeting, the Slave Bill being set down for its second reading, which it was thought would meet with some opposition. Contrary to expectation, the Bill passed its second reading unopposed, and the Committee stage was adjourned for a fortnight to allow time for any suggested amendments being sent in and considered. But though this matter passed off quietly, the meeting was not without its sensation. This came in the form of a brief and innocent looking despatch which was formally laid on the table without comment. It is a very few lines Lord Kitchener calmly informs the Officer Administering the Government that Her Majesty's Government have agreed to the appointment of Mr. Tso Ping Lung, at present Chinese Consul at Singapore, to be Consul at Hongkong for one year, on the understanding that he should be withdrawn at the end of that time if the appointment should not work well. It is evident from the opening sentence of this despatch that there has been previous correspondence on the subject, and it is equally apparent that the suggestion was first made by the Governor. Other counsels have, however, prevailed, and though in a somewhat different manner, the Imperial Government has given its assent. This question is one of importance of which Hongkong can hardly be unengaged, and on which it certainly ought first to have been consulted. We shall refer at length to the numerous considerations involved in this unprecedented step; there cannot in this Colony, we imagine, be two opinions as to the inadvisability of allowing a Representative of the Emperor of China to reside here; and all we desire to do now is to suggest that not a single day be lost in drawing up a memorial to the Queen in person praying that her sanction to this appointment may be withheld if not already given, or withdrawn if granted.

The weakness of the policy which has led to the establishment of a Chinese Consulate in Hongkong is displayed in the statement that the appointment has been agreed to for one year, on the understanding that he (the Consul) should be withdrawn at the end of that time if the appointment should not work well. Any one with the least amount of forethought will be foreseen that for the first year, perhaps for several years, the Consulate would be conducted irresponsibly. The immediate business in hand will be to insert the thin end of the wedge with such gentleness as to give no cause for complaint. Not until suspicion has been allayed, and a solid foundation laid, will the Consul begin to exercise his functions as "spy and squealer-general of the Chinese Government." To suppose that there will in the long run be no squeezing would be as absurd as to suppose that the milk in a dairy would remain unspotted with the look of a teat. Squeezing is inherent in the Chinese disposition, and will be exercised wherever circumstances admit of it. And in Hongkong the circumstances are such that the abuse is inevitable. The attempts to squeeze the late Mr. Kwok Aheong, as well as the numerous illegal arrests that have been made on British territory, ought to be sufficient warning against giving the Chinese authorities a recognised footing in the island. In the despatch of Sir RICHARD MACDONNELL on the suggested establishment of a Consulate here in 1869, His Excellency said:—"Of course the further a colony might be from China, the less easy would it be the espionage and influence which can be so directly and promptly brought to bear on residents of an island almost touching Chinese soil. Thus, at Singapore there would be less danger and inconvenience of increasing, by the appointment of a recognised Government official as Consul, the influence of the Cantonese or other Chinese authorities there." Yet we know that during the Franco-Chinese troubles an attempt was made by the Chinese Government through the Consul at Singapore to levy a square on the Chinese residents there in support of the war. The gentleman who was Consul at the time was Mr. Tso Ping Lung, who is now to be transferred to Hongkong. If such an attempt was made at Singapore, how much more likely are similar attempts to be made in this Colony.

Any legitimate purpose of the Chinese Government a Consul at Hongkong is unnecessary. So far as the protection of the Chinese is concerned, the arrangements by which the Foreign branch of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs is afforded facilities for the collection of the duties justly payable on goods imported into China from Hongkong, those arrangements have proved mutually beneficial. Smuggling has been discouraged and legitimate trade thereby promoted, and the Colony has every reason to be satisfied with the arrangement arrived at in 1866. The Customs service as now organised commands the public confidence, and no fear is entertained as to its being used for squeezing purposes. The Chinese revenue being thus sufficiently protected—and protection of the revenue was the only plea put forward in 1869—what necessity can there be for a Consul? Is it to give protection and render assistance to the Chinese subjects in this Colony? If so, also for the Chinese subjects? The assistance the Consul will give them will simply be in ascertaining the extent to which they can be squeezed, and if they do not pay up pleasantly the screw will be turned on through their families on the mainland. No more serious blow could well be struck at the well-being of the Chinese population than the establishment of a Chinese Consulate in this Colony, and the impression will be further confirmed, and the Chinese Authorities will find it little more difficult to levy their square on here than at Canton. For one year the Colony must put up with the new arrangement, but during that period no effort ought to be spared by the community to secure from the home Government a reversal of their most lamentable decision.

THE BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

The British Consular reports for the last few years show a distinct advance on those previously issued in the amount of information embodied in them, and in the number of suggestions made for opening up new branches of trade. The attention directed to this subject some

years ago has evidently borne fruit. The British Consul now devotes a good share of his time and attention to the discovery of new outlets for trade, and at the same time watches jealously the efforts made by natives to circumscribe British trade and the competition of other foreigners to monopolise certain branches. This is as it should be. The main duty of the Consul in China must needs be the conservation of trade, and it is necessary that his vigilance should know no relaxation, because the Chinese officials are perpetually devising some new form of unauthorised taxation while the native traders and dealers are as constantly seeking to erect monopolies which are intended to obstruct freedom of trade, to wrest it from the foreigner's hands, or to so enhance prices as to render them prohibitive. An instructive instance of the former action is given by Mr. Consul HOPKINS in his report on the trade of Kinkiang. Towards the close of 1890, he tells us, "rumours" prevailed of an impending levy on all foreign opium imported of Ts's, 4 a ch'at. It was to be a voluntary contribution for the relief of the districts in the northern provinces. It was also of those cases that occasionally illustrate the excellency of native methods, and from will. Undoubtedly a necessity existed among the native agencies now. There is no less than in the term of the official instructions; the free will was to be exercised by the opium dealers at Kinkiang and elsewhere in making contribution of a rate indicated by the despatch issued by the Viceroy of Chihli. The collection in Kinkiang was entrusted to one of the subordinate officials and the local manager of the China Merchants' establishment. Accordingly, late in December the levy began, but after a brief career of four days was abruptly terminated by a peremptory telegram from the Tsung Li Yamen, and the sums already collected were refunded to their "voluntary" contributors." Mr. HOPKINS does not say by whose influence this result was brought about, presumably it was due to the British Minister's representations.

Mr. FORESTER, Consul at Amoy, also records a barefaced attempt to make foreign opium bear the tax that should be levied on the native drug. It appears that the provincial Government were unable or unwilling either to levy a tax on the fields under poppy cultivation or collect one on the drug on its way to a market. Instead of doing this, they tried to compel all opium shops to pay 50% on the rate of Ts's, 48 a picul on two-fifths of all the opium used by them, without taking the trouble to ascertain how much native opium they really use, or, indeed, whether they use any at all, and in spite of the fact that quite three-fourths of the opium smoked in this district is certainly foreign and has, therefore, already paid to the foreign Customs an import duty and taxes of Ts's, 110 per picul. The effect on foreign opium would be to raise its price, and there would be less profit to be made by growing it and by mixing it with foreign opium. The result should be that more foreign opium would be used and less native. But if the gross amount of opium sold is taken as the measure of native opium to be taxed, it will evidently be the interest of the opium shops to use as much native opium as possible, and as little foreign opium as possible, particularly since the amount of foreign opium is known and can be traced, while the native opium is smuggled, and therefore an unknown quantity. The Consul goes on to say that he had to object to this method of levying taxes as an infringement of the Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention, presumably with

success.

These incidents suffice to show the necessity there is of a constant watch being maintained by the British Minister and his subordinates on the Chinese in China over the actions of the corrupt and unscrupulous Chinese officials. When Li Hsia-chen, Secretary of the Grand Council, Viceroy of Chihli, and believed to be virtually China's Foreign Minister, is the instigator in a violation of the Treaty, what is to be expected? It is true that Li is the arch-enemy of foreigners, and we believe, hesitate at nothing to do to satisfy under shelter of subordinates to injure foreign interests, but this only accentuates the need there is for a firm and decided policy towards China. Experience takes the place of science, and he is able to produce a fine flavoured tea that has yet been produced in India. A noteworthy feature in the tea trade of 1890 has been that some of the Russian and British tea, which at Amoy have been sold at 50% of the tea drunk in the interior to touch them, have been quite content that it is equalling a British dollar we are flogging a dead horse. After the fall of the Hongkong Mint and the weight of opinion that has been given against renewing the attempt to introduce a British dollar, it must be recognised that the prospect of the tea market is very remote. The tea produced has sold so well in Russia that Mr. GOODMAN anticipated that this year this operation would be extended. But it is only a question of time how soon the Russian tea will follow the example of the English tea and draw its supplies from India and Ceylon, which are already busily nursing the market. To concentrate attention on the improvement of quality will not save the tea from China in large quantities, to the inconvenience alike of the Government and the public. Considering the need China has of the coins issued by the Hongkong Government, as shown by the circumstances recorded by Mr. PHILLIPS, this suggested danger must be pronounced absolutely non-existent.

The KOWLOON GAMBLING HOUSES.

Consul PHILLIPS, in his report for the year of 1890, makes a statement of exceptional interest to Hongkong. It appears that during 1890 some \$60,000 worth of 10 cent pieces and 20 cent pieces were imported by the Chinese authorities at Foochow from Hongkong through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to replace the 100 cash notes and 200 cash notes that had previously been in circulation. For a great number of years these notes, worth 4d. and 8d. respectively, had passed current without question as to their genuineness; but during the past few months many of the small banks issuing these notes had failed, and the losses to the tea shopkeepers and others were very great. In addition to small banks issuing these notes shopkeepers also issued them. All went well while the Foochow trade was flourishing; but as the decay of the tea trade of the port affected the shopkeepers as well as the merchants, many of the former closed their shops, in many cases without any assets to meet the notes. When a run was put on the tank or shop holding the notes the people who were called to receive cash for the notes, had to pay the law into their own hands, frequently plundering the tea shopkeepers, and in some cases, commencing to pull the houses to pieces. These occurrences were becoming so frequent that the authorities found themselves called upon to interfere, and proclamations were issued declaring all notes of 100 and 200 cash to be illegal tender. To replace these notes the provincial treasury had issued 10 cent and 20 cent silver coins, some of which they at first obtained from the Canton Mint, but which they rejected later in favour of the Hongkong small silver currency, which Mr. PHILLIPS intended to purchase to the amount of £21,000. The native banks are said to be also anxious to purchase small coins in an equal amount. If such a quantity can be bought in a few months, it is estimated that about £50,000 worth of small Hongkong coin will be in circulation at Foochow.

Our readers have no doubt noticed the scarcity of Hongkong small coins of late, due apparently to the drain for Foochow. Fortunately their place has been filled by the coins issued from the Canton Mint, so that the Colony has not been absolutely denuded of small change, and the demand from Foochow has therefore caused less inconvenience than would have been the case had we not been able to draw on our next door neighbours for our requirements. But the writer of the well-known "Chinese Characteristics" gives a graphic account of what takes place. One village or set of villages is situated on a flat bank to inundation when a river breaks its banks. To guard against the ruin which is thus threatened

Queen's head and allow the mintage profit to be given to the Viceroy of Canton instead of to the Colonial exchequer! When the Hongkong Mint Commission was appointed in 1866 one of the references to it was the following—"As connected with the possibility of making the mint a paying concern, to consider what profit is likely to be realised if it would be unneighbourly and most unprofitable act on the part of China if she refused to put a stop to the gambling at Kowloon. There is of course no reason why we should not use our arm in regard to smuggling as a lever to move China to oblige us either in the matter of gambling or anything else that may be desired, but at the same time it is difficult to draw any parallel between the two questions. Smuggling is a recognisable offence against the laws of all countries, whereas gambling is tolerated in many, and it is not so very long ago that licensed gambling houses existed in Hongkong. There are many people who think that a revival of the licensing system would be the best way of dealing with the evil. We have shown that in our opinion the principal object of the Hongkong Royal Mint, namely, the production of British dollars, will not make it possible to put a stop to the gambling at Kowloon. This is of course no reason why we should not use our arm in regard to smuggling as a lever to move China to oblige us either in the matter of gambling or anything else that may be desired, but at the same time it is difficult to draw any parallel between the two questions. Smuggling is a recognisable offence against the laws of all countries, whereas gambling is tolerated in many, and it is not so very long ago that licensed gambling houses existed in Hongkong. There are many people who think that a revival of the licensing system would be the best way of dealing with the evil. 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